

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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SUBJECT: DANISH DELEGATION TO VIETNAM

REF: COPENHAGEN 1206

1. DURING MARCH 16 MEETING WITH MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN, I INQUIRED ABOUT RESULTS OF DANISHDELEGATION'S VISIT TO HANOI (REFTEL). JORGENSEN REPLIED THAT INFORMATION WHICH HAS APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS WAS BASICALLY CORRECT.

2. MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO LISE OSTERGAARD (NOW NUMBER 2 IN DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) RETURNED TO COPENHAGEN MARCH 17 FROM SOUTHEAST ASIS WHERE SHE HAD LED A DANISH DELEGATION TO MALAYSIA AND VIETNAM. AS A RESULT OF HER VISIT TO HANOI, THE VIETNAMESE AND DANISH GOVERNMENTS AGREED:

(A) TO SET UP A JOINT COMMISSION FOR TRADE. THIS TYPE OF COMMISSION IS SIMILAR TO THE ONES WHICH DENMARK MAINTAINS WITH OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WICH ENGAGE IN STATE TRADING;

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(B) VIETNAMESE EXPERTS AND TRADE OFFICIALS SHOULD COME TO DENMARK AT AN EARLY DATE;

(C) THAT A DANISH TRADE DELEGATION WILL TRAVEL TO VIETNAM AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. THIS DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM FIVE OR SIX LARGE DANISH COMPANIES.

3. ACCORDING TO THE DAILY NEWSPAPER "INFORMATION", MINISTER OSTERGAARD PROMISED THE VIETNAMESE FURTHER DANISH GRANT ASSISTANCE OF 30 TO 40 MILLION KRONER OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, TO START IN 1978 (THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT 5 TO 6.7 MILLION DOLLARS). OSTERGAARD IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT DENMARK IS WILLING TO EXTEND A NEW LOAN AMOUNT SIMILAR TO THE EARLIER 150 MILLION KRONER (ABOUT 25 MILLION DOLLARS) WHEN THE PRESENT FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED. THE VIETNAMESE REPORTEDLY SAID THEY WULD USE A NEW LOAN TO FINISH A CEMENT PLANT AND TO BUILD A NEW SUGAR FACTORY.

4. INFORMATION ALSO REPORTED VIETNAMESE CRITICISM OF THE "PACIFICATION" METHODS USED IN CAMBODIA.

5. THE DANISH DELEGATION VISITED HO CHI MINH CITY, FORMERLY SAIGON. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS HERE, THIS WAS THE FIRST VISIT BY A WESTERN GROUP TO SAIGN SINCE IT FELL TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT AND PRESS DELEGATION WERE NOT PERMITTED TO MOVE FREELY AROOUND THE AREA LEFT AN IMPRESSION OF AN ATMOSPHERE OF LAW AND ORDER.

6. AMBASSADOR OLE BIERRING, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, ACCOMPANIED THE DANISH MINISTER ON HER TRAVELS TO VIETNAM. I HOPE TO SEE HIM NEXT WEEK TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL IMPRESSIONS.

DEAN

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